

## REMARKS

### In The Drawings

Applicant is concurrently submitting drawing amendments to address remaining objections to the drawings in the present Office Action.

### Claim Objections

Claims 4 and 15 are objected to because of an informalities in lines 11 - 12 of Claim 4 and line 6 of Claim 15 with respect to the reference "an stage progression signal". Applicants have amended the phrase to read "a stage progression signal".

### 112 Rejections

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully disagree that the phrase "during a first stage" and "during a second stage" are indefinite and Applicants respectfully assert that the phrase is not used in a context contrary to what one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would understand. In an effort to satisfy the Examiner's concerns the Applicants have amended Claim 4 to indicate "from a first stage" and "from a second stage".

### 103 Rejections

The present Office Action indicates Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Steele (US Patent No. 5,299,203). Applicants respectfully assert that the present invention is neither shown nor suggested by the Steele reference. The present Office Action acknowledges that the Steele reference fails to teach use in an automatic scan test. The present Office Action indicates that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a switch of the Steele reference in an automatic scan test. Applicants respectfully assert it would not have been obvious to provide an automatic scan test enable signal system or method as claimed in the present application. Applicants respectfully assert that the Steele reference does not teach the present claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully assert that the Steele reference does not teach a scan test enable trigger sensing component adapted to provide an assertion or deassertion notification when logical values of a trigger signal captured during multiple stages provide an indication to begin a scan test enable signal assertion or deassertion as claimed in the present application. Applicants respectfully assert the Steele reference does not teach use of logical values of a trigger signal. Applicants respectfully assert that to the extent the Steele may teach monitoring an over-voltage condition and proving a signal to a flip flop it does not teach assertion or deassertion notification when logical values of a trigger signal are captured during multiple stages provide an

indication to begin a scan test enable signal assertion or deassertion as claimed in the present invention.

The present Office Action indicates Steele teaches the limitations of claim 11. Applicants respectfully assert the Steele reference does not teach the limitations of claim 11. Applicants respectfully assert that Steele does not teach input/output circuitry 16 is coupled to test enable circuitry 29 through OR gate 22. Applicants respectfully assert that to the extent there may be lines between input/output circuitry 16 and enable circuitry 29 that cross each other in the Steele reference there is no indication of a connection or coupling dot at the cross point of the lines. Applicants respectfully assert that the Steele reference does not suggest or teach multiplexing capabilities to facilitate transmission of signals depending upon the assertion of a scan test enable signal. While Applicants respectfully assert the "T" signal of the test mode enable circuitry 29 of the Steele reference does not teach a scan test enable signal of the present invention, to the extent that the "T" signal of the test mode enable circuitry 29 of the Steele reference may be interpreted to be a scan test enable signal, Applicants respectfully assert the Steele reference does not suggest or teach the use of the "T" signal to impact a MUX in I/O circuitry 16.

The present Office Action indicates Steele teaches the limitations of Claims 15 - 21 with reference to rejections based on Claim 1. Applicants respectfully assert the Steele reference does not teach the limitations of claims 15 - 21 as per discussion above with reference to Claim 1.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Conclusion

In light of the above-listed amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the remaining Claims. The examiner is urged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO

Date: 8/12, 2002

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John F. Ryan", is written over a horizontal line.

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CLAIMS

4(AMENDED). The automatic scan test enable assertion system of Claim 1 in which said staging component further comprises:

a first stage scan enabling component coupled to said scan test enable trigger sensing component, said first stage scan enabling component adapted to track logical values of the trigger signal [during] from a first stage;

a second stage scan enabling component coupled to said scan test enable trigger sensing component, said second stage scan enabling component adapted to track logical values of the trigger signal [during] from a second stage;

a third stage scan enabling component coupled to said scan test enable trigger sensing component, said third stage scan enabling component adapted to maintain an active scan enable signal status until a[n] stage progression signal permits a contrary indication to be received by said third stage scan enabling component.

15(AMENDED) An automatic scan test enable signal assertion method comprising the steps of:

- a) transitioning logical values of a trigger signal;
- b) asserting a scan test enable signal based upon logical values in said trigger signal;
- c) suspending transitions in a[n] stage progression signal;

- d) deasserting said scan test enable signal if a transition occurs in said stage progression signal; and
- e) utilizing a normal functional pin to communicate said trigger signal and said stage progression signal.